

DIABETES EXPLAINED. By Arnold Bloom, Fourth Edition. (Pp 168, Illustrated. £6.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1982.

THIS is the fourth edition of a book which has been widely read as an explanatory book for the intelligent layman who happens also to have diabetes. It is also useful as a source of reference for parents of diabetic children, and is on sale in many general bookshops as well as in those with a medical interest. The book deserves its wide audience and is written with tact and consideration appropriate to the intended readers.

It fully deserves to go to a fourth edition. The format is perhaps now becoming a little old-fashioned and perhaps the layout could be improved but these are small points and probably are associated with the relatively low price which is charged for this book.

Like later editions of all successful books, some of the emphasis in the early chapters tends to become misplaced and nowadays much more would be made of the desire for really good control of blood sugar early on in the career of a diabetic person. This would lead to even more detailed discussion of the technique of capillary glucose self-monitoring on which a book of this sort might be expected to be very authoritative. The book will also be in danger of becoming out of date in the near future when the U100 insulin is made available in 1983.

There are very good and sensible discussions of the special problems of diabetes associated with pregnancy and with childhood and I have no hesitation in recommending this book to any of my patients who might wish to know more about the subject. A paperback edition would be cheaper. DRH

TEXTBOOK OF ORTHOPAEDIC MEDICINE, Volume One—DIAGNOSIS OF SOFT TISSUE LESIONS. By James Cyriax. Eighth Edition (Pp xi + 502, Fig 137, Plates 48. £21.00). London: Ballière Tindall, 1982.

THIS long monograph is a companion to 'Treatment by Manipulation, Massage and Injection' and encompasses more than just the diagnosis of soft tissue lesions. This book is well produced and the illustrations are of the highest quality. Ironically one of the few errors are in the reference to Mixter and Barr, 1934, who first described the disc lesion. The first few lines, which proclaim that orthopaedic medicine was born in 1929, herald a didactic exposition which reflects the rather special personal experience of the author rather than presenting a balanced textbook.

Emphasis is rightly placed on careful clinical examination as a sound basis for diagnosis in locomotor lesions but excursion into other areas have not been so successful. In its eighth edition it does not reflect modern advances in diagnosis though this may also reflect the rapidly expanding diagnostic and investigative techniques in this area. There are a number of oversights, particularly in the paediatric field emphasising the near impossible logistic problem which confronts the author of a complete textbook. This book is certainly not for the medical student. It will be of interest to the informed and experienced. However, as it presents a tangential view of soft tissue lesions, it will not be a useful reference book. RABM

A PATIENT'S GUIDE TO DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION. By Roger Gabriel. Second Edition. (Pp 128, Illustrated. £4.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1982.

THE purpose of this short book is to explain to the patient with end stage renal failure an outline of available treatment. This is a worthwhile aim as many patients find difficulty in assimilating the modern concepts of dialysis and transplantation. The book contains basic information such as the long list of symptoms which may be a source of anxiety for the uraemic patient. Some outmoded forms of treatment are mentioned such as the use of the Scribner shunt for chronic haemodialysis but in general the book is well balanced and informative. An exception is the chapter on renal transplantation which contains some alarming statements, i.e. "all transplant kidneys eventually lose their function and patients return to chronic dialysis." Such mis-information is only partly re-dressed elsewhere in the book by mention of the great variation in results of renal transplantation between different centres. This criticism apart, patients with kidney failure will find this book useful and interesting. CCD